

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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C O N F I D E N T I A L HAMILTON 416

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PINS, BD
SUBJECT: UNITED BERMUDA PARTY (UBP) PUBLIC RELATIONS FIRM -
JOHN WILLIAMS

REF: HAMILTON 410

1. THIS MORNING'S ROYAL GAZETTE LEAD HEADLINE IS QUOTE MAKEBERMUDA 51ST
U.S. STATE SAYS PR EXPERT UNQUOTE. JOHN WILLIAMS, THE UBP HIRED PUBLIC
RELATIONS TYPE, WHOSE BACKGROUND AND ACTIVITIES WERE DETAILED IN REFTEL
GRANTED AN EXCLUSIVE TWO-HOUR INTERVIEW TO THE GAZETTE ON SEPT 7. THE
LEAD SENTENCE IN THE ARTICLE STATES QUOTE JOHN A. WILLIAMS, THEAMERICAN
PUBLIC RELATIONS EXPERT HIRED BY THE UNITED BERMUDA PARTYTO DRASTICALLY
OVERHAUL ITS IMAGE BEFORE THE NEXT ELECTION, THINKS BERMUDA SHOULD
BECOME
THE 51ST AMERICAN STATE. UNQUOTE.

2. THE FULL TEXT OF THE INTERVIEW IN QUESTION AND ANSWER FORMAT APPEARS
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ON PAGE FOUR. THE QUESTION WHICH ELICITED THE HEADLINE STATEMENT IS
QUOTE HOW WOULD YOU LIKE BERMUDA TO DEVELOP OVER THE NEXT FEW YEARS?
ANSWER: I WOULD LIKE BERMUDA TO BECOME THE 51ST STATE OF THE U.S. I
THINK IF THE MECHANISMS WITHIN THE BERMUDA AND U.S. GOVERNMENTS WERE
WORKED OUT IT WOULD BE VERY NICE. BERMUDIANS TEND TO BE MORE ATTRACTED

TO AMERICA THAN CANADA AND BRITAIN.

I DON'T KNOW IF THIS IS A POSSIBILITY OR NOT. THE QUESTION IS WHETHER THE U.S. GOVERNMENT WOULD BE WILLING TO TAKE ON ANOTHER STATE, OF WHICH

THE POPULATION WAS PREDOMINANTLY NON-WHITE. BUT THEY'VE DONE IT IN ALASKA AND HAWAII. I AM NOT PUTTING FORWARD THE IDEA TO THE UBP. UNQUOTE.

3. ARTICLE GOES ON TO SAY THAT WILLIAMS HAD ADMITTED IN THE INTERVIEW THAT HE HAD DIFFICULTIES QUOTE IN THE PAST WITH THE CIA UNQUOTE WHO HAD

QUOTE WORKED ON UNQUOTE A TELEPHONE IN HIS NEW YORK APARTMENT. HE ALSO STATED THAT THE REVEREND JESSE JACKSON HAD, IN 1970, ALLEGED IN THE AMERICAN MAGAZINE JET, THAT WILLIAMS WAS A SPY FOR THE CIA. HE STATES THAT WITH THE THREAT OF A LAWSUIT THE MAGAZINE SUBSEQUENTLY PUBLISHED A RETRACTION.

4. I SEE NO IMMEDIATE PROBLEM IN HANDLING EXPECTED INQUIRIES FROM MEDIA

HERE. AS I HAVE NEVER SEEN OR SPOKEN TO WILLIAMS, I CAN FORCEFULLY AFFIRM SUBSTANCE OF STATEMENT QUOTED IN PARA 4 OF OUR REFTEL. I AM CON-

CERNED ABOUT THIS UNFORTUNATE STATEMENT TO THE EXTENT THAT THE CONFIDENTIAL

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READER WHO ONLY LOOKS AT HEADLINES, WILL CONJURE UP VISIONS OF U.S. IMPERIALISM. FURTHER, I THINK IT IS UNFORTUNATE FOR THE UBP AND THE PREMIER THAT THIS STATEMENT IS ATTRIBUTED TO THE PERSON WHO IS PURPORT-

EDLY FUNCTIONING AS THE PARTY'S IMAGE MAKER. THE PREMIER IS OFF THE ISLAND UNTIL SEPT 10. I WILL TRY TO GET HIS REACTION DURING OUR REGULAR BI-WEEKLY MEETING NEXT WEEK.

5. ALTHOUGH I EXPECT WILLIAMS' SOJOURN ON THE ISLAND WILL BE CUT SHORT,

ANY BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON WILLIAMS THAT MAY BE OBTAINED WOULD BE APPRECIATED. ONLY INFORMATION I HAVE IS THAT HE IS A SOCIOLOGIST AND AUTHOR OF SOME NOTE, SOMETIME LECTURER AT BOSTON UNIVERSITY AND RESIDES

IN NEW JERSEY.

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